

## God as Our Father Luke 11:1-4

Jesus' instruction regarding prayer gives emphasis to the Fatherhood of God, seen often in NT

*Exodus 6:3* I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, Lord, I did not make Myself known to them.

He is still as much "God Almighty" and "Jehovah" as He ever was

But the expression "Father" expresses His closeness to us

Consider three characteristics that emphasize Him as "Father"

His holiness, His love, and His mercy.

### His Holiness

*Isaiah 6:3* "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

*Revelation 4:8* "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

Holiness of God is characteristic of His being which takes pleasure in everything pure and holy, and hates everything which is morally evil.

As God is unlimited in other ways, He is unlimited in His goodness

Since nothing in His being is evil or sanctions evil, impossible for Him to be impure as this would be contrary to His divine nature.

*James 1:13* God cannot be tempted by evil

The holiness of God is also the basis of His abhorrence of evil

*Habakkuk 1:13* Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor.

*Psalms 5:5* You hate all who do iniquity.

What is a small sin to man is a great sin to God

Black spot on clean white board much more noticeable than black spot on a board that is already dark and dirty

Mud looks worse on children dressed for picture, than on children playing in the yard

Even so, God hates sin with a hatred which man, who is already polluted with it, can hardly understand or appreciate.

More free self from shackles of sin, more we abhors its presence

Since God is completely holy, His hatred of evil is greatest of all.

God's hatred of sin shown in, destruction of earth by flood; burning of Sodom & Gomorrah; final destruction of earth by fire

All of this, because of His perfect holiness

The holiness of God should cause us to praise Him

*Psalms 99:5* Exalt the Lord our God And worship at His footstool; Holy is He.

*Luke 11:2* hallowed be Your name

*1Peter 1:14-16* As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

*2Peter 1:2-4* Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

When we do this, we may then be called "saints" because we have taken into our lives the holy nature from God.

### His Love

Love of God basis of more sermons and writings than most any other

Ardent affection which one holds for another & reaches its highest form in divine love.

Love cannot be separated from the personality of God.

Read God is merciful & just, but never told He is mercy or justice.

*1John 4:8* The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Therefore we know that the extent of His love is so great that His actions are motivated by this characteristic.

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Other attributes of God, such as His mercy, have their basis in love.

God's love is contrasted with that of human beings in that it is always presented from the basis of intelligence.

Sometimes, we are moved by blind passion or silly infatuation.

But God's infinite wisdom always governs His love, and that love therefore always works for our best interests.

The objects of God's love are many

*John 15:9* Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

God's love also extends to those who are wholly unworthy of His benevolence.

Includes whole world as read, "God so loved the world" John 3:16

This means God loves sinners who by their actions might be thought to have alienated His affections.

*Romans 5:7-8* For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Truly, such love cannot be measured in human terms.

**John 16:27** for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. God's love is manifested to us in many ways.

**1John 4:9-10** By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**1John 3:1** See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Still another expression of divine love is that of repeated forgiveness.

**1John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Each time we sin, and with penitent heart asks forgiveness, can be assured God will grant it. He is not slack concerning His promises.

Providence of God in caring for saints is blessing resulting from divine love.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

**Matthew 6:33**

**Hebrews 12:6** For those whom the Lord loves HE disciplines, And HE scourges every son whom HE receives.”

Finally, the promise of an eternal home as a reward for faithful service, is a blessing stemming from God's love. 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

**1John 4:19** We love, because He first loved us.

**1John 4:11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**John 14:15** If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

## His Mercy

Already suggested, God's love is basis of His mercy as in **John 3:16**

It was His love for men that caused Him to extend His mercy.

Mercy of God is disposition of His nature which leads Him to help us when in misery and to pardon us when we offend Him.

Mercy & grace close in meaning, grace implying unmerited favor.

God extends His grace to us because He is all merciful.

**Ephesians 2:4-7** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Greatest expression of mercy found in offering His Son for our sins.

Even as He answers our prayers when we offend Him, and forgives us freely, we are receiving His mercy.

**2Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Of course, God's mercy does not contradict His justice

## Because God is holy, loving and merciful, He is truly a father to us

He cares for our material and spiritual needs

Answers our prayers, always in accordance with what's best for us

When we are in trouble, we may go to Him for comfort and strength

Expects obedience of us & sometimes chastises for our own good.

We must honor Him in godly living and worship, as a faithful child honors his parents

And in the end, if as children, we have been faithful, we shall receive our Father's inheritance and shall hear the king say,

**Matthew 25:34** Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

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